



2002 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program



Program Focus —

The goal of WHIP in Minnesota is to "Maintain a healthy, diverse ecosystem through the improvement, enhancement and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, in cooperation with private agricultural landowners".

Promote wildlife habitat restoration and management on private lands through cooperative endeavors between landowners and Federal, state and local conservation partners.

To maximize habitat and species benefits, focus WHIP financial and technical resources towards projects statewide which are a component of a comprehensive plan with the highest demonstratable outcomes.

Utilize WHIP, to the extent practicable, to benefit State and Federal at risk species.

Minnesota Summary

Overview

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for people who want to develop or improve wildlife habitat on tribal and private lands. It provides both technical assistance and cost sharing to help establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Minnesota's WHIP plan focuses on the establishment and management of native habitats, including at risk species. WHIP contracts are coordinated with other local, state, tribal and federal initiatives which allows the program to reach many more customers.

2002 Accomplishments

Minnesota received a total of 97 eligible applications in FY-02, and the dollar value of applications received exceeded \$1.1 million. Minnesota was able to fund 59 contracts establishing and enhancing over 1612 acres at a cost of over \$432,000.

1590 acres of upland habitat were affected. This included the establishment of 460 acres of native grasses and forbs, 272 acres of native trees and shrubs, and 339 acres of timber stand improvement to remove invasive species and improve woodlands for wildlife. Additionally, 22 acres of wetlands were restored and over 800' of stream habitat improved.

Program Benefits

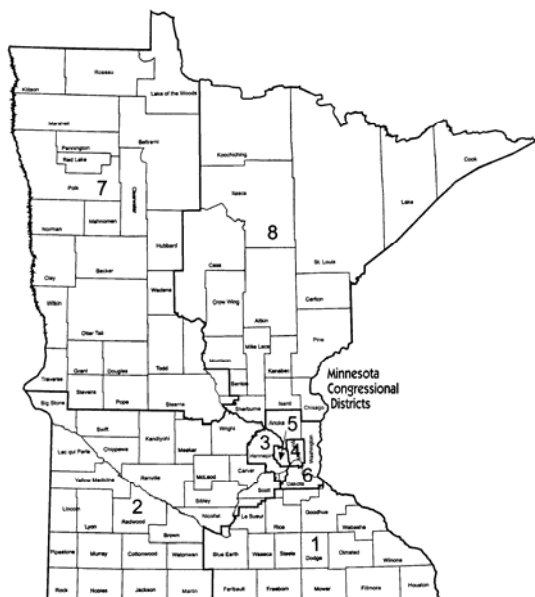
NRCS has worked closely with several tribes to utilize WHIP in meeting tribal comprehensive wildlife management plans. WHIP has provided NRCS the opportunity to reach non-traditional clients and introduce them to USDA programs and services.

WHIP has been used to demonstrate the value of non-traditional habitat projects. Examples include; incorporating native plant materials into residential subdivision and green space designs, incorporating wildlife considerations and native materials in golf course designs, and outdoor environmental education projects.

State contact

Mark Oja
State Biologist
(651) 602-7868
mark.oja@mn.usda.gov

Minnesota Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Minnesota Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2002		Cumulative Total (98-02)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$122,500	18	\$614,215	120
District 2	\$160,340	12	\$293,432	43
District 3	0	0	0	0
District 4	\$21,230	5	\$21,230	5
District 5	0	0	0	0
District 6	0	0	\$74,682	23
District 7	\$49,641	8	\$302,703	64
District 8	\$78,720	16	\$503,492	103
State Totals	\$432,481	59	\$1,809,754	358